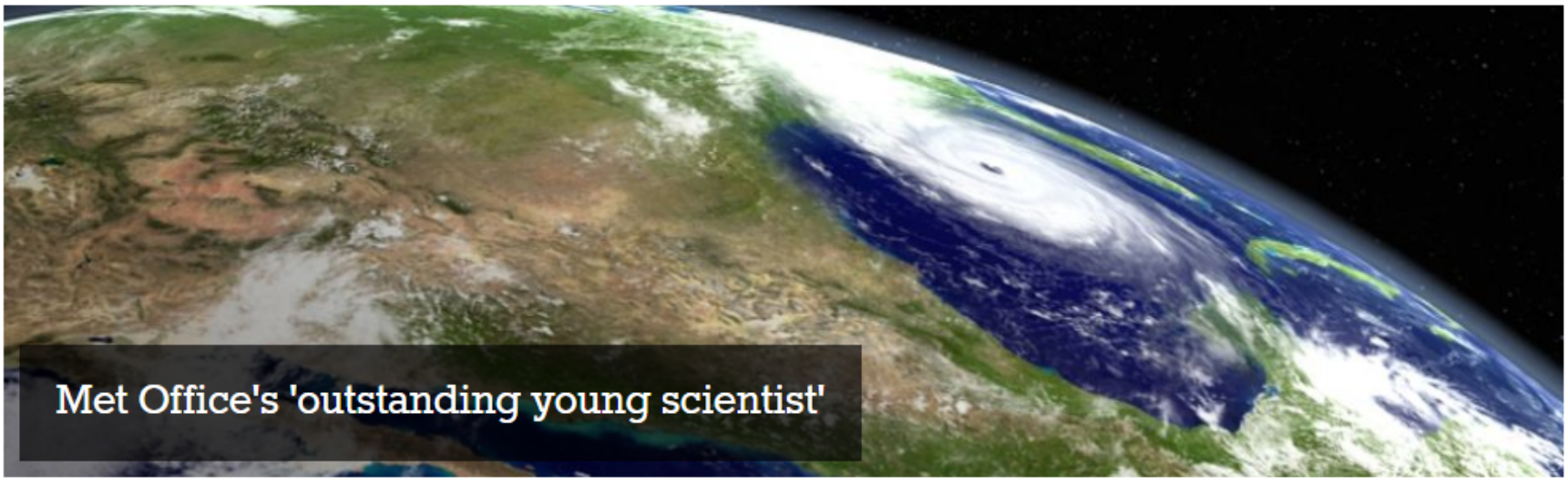

15 October 2013 - A Met Office scientist has been recognised by the European Geophysical Union as its Outstanding Young Scientist for Climate Sciences.

Dr Nick Dunstone has been given the award as part of the EGU 's annual honours, which sees nominations made from across Europe.

Nick has worked on monthly to decadal prediction since joining the Met Office five years ago and has carried out a series of high profile experiments to determine the causes of climate variability, particularly for the Atlantic.

He was the lead author on a paper published in Nature Geoscience earlier this year which looked at the link between aerosols, or dirty pollution, and the number of Atlantic hurricanes.

The research suggested aerosols may have suppressed the number of Atlantic hurricanes over the 20th Century and even controlled the decade-to-decade changes in the number of hurricanes.

Nick said: "I'm very pleased to be given this award. I think it more broadly recognises the continual progress being made here at the Met Office Hadley Centre on the exciting, and challenging, area of near-term climate predictions from months to decades ahead."

Dr Adam Scaife, Head of Monthly to Decadal Prediction at the Met Office, said: "Nick's work has important consequences for climate prediction including the role of man-made climate change in Atlantic hurricanes.

"Nick's studies have been repeatedly highlighted by scientific journals and his contributions in so short a time in the Met Office make him an exceptional candidate for this well deserved award."

Award winners will receive their prizes at the EGU 2014 General Assembly, which will take place in Vienna in April next year.

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Last updated: 16 October 2013